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OPI VIDEO UPDATE

- Florida's 2012 Legislative Session Wrap-up
- Key Legislation Highlights
- OPI Resources Post Session
- Did You Know?

The House Office of Public Information has updated its video library to include:

- Removal of Speaker Mays Portrait from the House Chamber
- Unveiling of Speaker Cannon's Portrait
- Speaker's Farewell Remarks
- Sine Die 2012

To view additional OPI videos, visit the <u>Public Guide page</u> of the <u>House website</u>.

NOTEWORTHY

Florida House Concludes 2012 Legislative Session

On Friday, March 9, the Florida House of Representatives concluded the 2012 Legislative Session passing House Bill 5001, the 2012-13 General Appropriations Act (GAA), in addition to the implementing bill and various conforming bills. The 2012-13 GAA includes a total state budget of \$70 billion comprised of \$24.8 billion in General Revenue, \$24.9 billion in federal funds and \$20.4 billion in trust funds. The budget also includes \$1 billion in new funding for K-12 education and more than \$2.1 billion in reserves.

Additional highlights from this year's session include:

Tax Relief Package

House Bill 7087, a package of tax incentives and exemptions to improve economic development in the state, includes provisions that provide new or expanded sales tax exemptions for manufacturing and other industries; expand tax credits for community development entities; further the development of biomedical and cancer research in the state; add two enterprise zones; increase the current corporate income tax exemption of net income from \$25,000 to \$50,000; increase funding for and make changes to current entertainment industry tax incentives to increase film shooting days in Florida; increase funding to the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund; authorize a three day Back to School sales tax holiday for clothing, shoes, and school supplies; and revise government procurement rules to increase the likelihood that Florida-based businesses can successfully compete.

Military Support

Members of the House and Senate unanimously approved committee substitute for <u>Senate Bill 922</u> (CS/CS/SB 922), which includes several provisions to support current and former military personnel. Among other recognitions, the bill allows the veterans of the Vietnam War and the Korean Conflict, as well as recipients of the Combat Infantry Badge, the



NOTEWORTHY (cont.)

(Military Support cont.)

Silver Star, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross and the Air Force Cross to apply for special use license plates and, in some cases, receive the plates without payment of the license tag fee. In addition, it contains the T. Patt Maney Veterans' Treatment Intervention Act, which provides for the creation of special court programs for veterans and service members with military-related mental illnesses, traumatic brain injuries, substance abuse disorders or psychological problems. The bill also adds approved operations eligible for the ad valorem tax exemption for deployed service members and expands the Florida Service-Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity Act to include wartime veterans. The bill also designates August 7th of each year as Purple Heart Day, authorizing the Governor to issue a proclamation annually, and creates the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council within the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

For more military support provisions contained in the bill, including those to aid in the retention of military installations throughout the state, visit the bill page on the House website.

State Universities of Academic and Research Excellence and National Preeminence Act

<u>House Bill 7129</u>, the State Universities of Academic and Research Excellence and National Preeminence Act, establishes 14 academic and research excellence standards. State universities that meet 11 of the 14 standards would have the authority to establish differential student tuition and fees at differentiated and market rates. The bill also creates a collaborative partnership between the Board of Governors and the Florida Legislature to carry out the mission of the Act.

Read <u>OPI Pulse: State Universities of Academic and Research Excellence and National Preeminence</u> for a full list of the 14 excellence standards and additional information.

Enhanced Human Trafficking Penalties

Also passed unanimously by members of both chambers, <u>House Bill 7049</u> addresses the increasing problem of human trafficking in Florida. The bill enhances Florida's laws and increases penalties for those engaging in human trafficking. Some of the changes include increasing penalties to first degree felonies and enhancing the penalty for those who traffic minors or persons who are not legally authorized to work in the United States.

Read <u>OPI Pulse: Human Trafficking</u> or check out the <u>bill page</u> for more information on the penalty and law changes contained in the legislation.

PIP Reform

As motor vehicle fraud and abuse continues to be an issue in Florida, members passed <u>House Bill 119</u> to help reduce the cost of purchasing automobile insurance in Florida and correct problems with the current system. The bill maintains several aspects of the current system, including the \$10,000 minimum coverage requirement, but modifies several aspects of the coverage to reduce the amount of fraud and abuse.

For a full list of changes to the PIP system, visit the bill page on the House website.



Informer

POST SESSION OPI PUBLICATIONS

Session Guide

As the 2012 Regular Session has concluded and the Florida Legislature convenes for a Special Session on Apportionment, OPI will release the final issue of Session Guide for the 2012 season this week. Be sure to watch your email or the House website for the last issue of Session Guide for 2012.

On Track

All bills mentioned above have been or will be presented to the Governor for his signature. As action on these and other bills continues, the Office of Public Information will frequently release On Track, a document which provides a status update on every bill passed by both chambers. On Track will be distributed via the OPI subscription listing and posted on the **Public Guide** page of the House website.

Latest Issue of On Track

OPI Pulse

Pulse Updates

Throughout the 2012 Legislative Session, the House Office of Public Information published OPI Pulse documents on various topics. With the completion of session, each of these documents will be updated in the coming days and weeks to reflect the conclusion of the proposed legislation.

Be sure to visit the Public Guide page to stay up to date on final Pulse materials.

Click **here** to see the full listing of OPI Pulse documents.

DID YOU KNOW?

House Multimedia

All videos, podcast, photos and articles on the House can be found on the Public Guide page of the House website. located in the Multimedia section.

You may also keep up with events of the House via:





And, of course, the House websitewww.myfloridahouse.gov.

Missed a Day of Session?

The House Broadcast page contains the last five session meetings of both the House and Senate. If you need to catch discussion or action on a bill of interest, check out the archives section.

Archives of previous committee and subcommittee meetings are also available on the corresponding committee or subcommittee page.